

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 14-204

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Raymond Wildlife Area Fence; Phase IV

**Region and Game Management Unit:** Region II; GMU 5B

**Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):**

- Forage Resource Study Group

**Was the project presented to the LHPC?**

YES[] NO[X]

**Has this project been submitted in previous years?** YES[X] NO[]

**If Yes, was it funded?** YES[] NO[X] → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

**Project Type:** New fence and Archeological Survey

**Brief Project Summary:**

Finish the last 1/3 mile portion of an upgrade to the holding pasture at Raymond Wildlife Area. This section is a new fence and was pulled from the Phase II project since it needed an arch survey to complete. All other planned fence projects (15+ miles) at Raymond Wildlife Area are complete, except this section. It will be built to the same standard as the perimeter fence plus an electric fence. The arch survey is still needed and may occur Fall 2014 with the fence ASAP afterward.

**Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Bison

**Implementation Schedule** (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Fall 2014

Project End Date: Spring 2015

**Environmental Compliance:**

NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[X] N/A[]

Projected Completion Date: Anticipated Winter 2014

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes[] No[X] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: Fall 2014

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist:

Yes[] No[X] Pending completion of Arch survey

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:** \$ 13,090

**Cost Share or Matching Funds:** \$ 0

**Total Project Costs:** \$ 13,090

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant** (please print):

Carl Lutch

**Address:**

3500 S. Lake Mary Rd

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**E-mail:**

clutch@azgfd.gov

**Telephone:** 928-214-1242

**Date:** August 25, 2014

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.** (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

**Project has been coordinated with:**

Arizona State Land Dept.

### **NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

Raymond Wildlife Area (RWA) is home to one of two state bison herds. Confining bison solely RWA has been difficult at best. Bison cause problems on surrounding cattle ranches and their private property including damage to fences and gates, disruption of cattle operations and consumption of forage by bison while on private property and cattle leases. Additionally, the Arizona Game and Fish Department has received a letter of concern from the Arizona State Land Department over trespass bison outside of RWA.

The Department has now updated 15+ miles of perimeter and holding pasture fence in the last two years. The updated holding pasture when complete will enclose approximately 115 acres and be 1 ¾ miles in length. Approximately, 600 yards of new holding pasture fence will be erected as soon as archeological surveys and an EAC are complete. The updated holding pasture will be used to hold the Raymond bison herd during the October antlerless elk and late bull elk seasons. We anticipate this will further acclimate the herd to people and reduce bison herd escapes from RWA. The critical part of this proposal is to conduct a needed archeological survey prior to completing the holding pasture.

### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

Complete a needed archeological survey and the updating of the old horse holding pasture at RWA to hold the Raymond bison herd during high disturbance periods on RWA.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:**

Complete the remaining two sections of holding pasture by headquarters. The remaining sections are approximately 600 yards in length. They will be built to the same standard as the new perimeter fence that is currently in place and containing the Raymond bison herd. Seven foot t-posts and new wood posts need to be used to support a top ¼" cable 5 ft. in height. Much of the current holding pasture fence is already 5 ft. This is higher than "standard" fence specifications for wildlife, but a standard fence is not tall enough nor strong enough to deter bison. Elk do not use this pasture, so we are not worried about elk passage through the pasture. The bottom strand will be 18-20" off the ground.

The holding pasture will also be used to improve outreach opportunities at RWA. Bison workshops are planned in the future when the herd is within the updated holding pasture and easily viewed by workshop participants. Improving outreach opportunities with the Raymond bison herd is one objective in the Raymond operational plan.

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Raymond Wildlife Area, east of Flagstaff

### **LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):**

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)  
The old horse holding pasture is fully on land owned by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission

*IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or  
LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?*  
YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

### **HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Approximately 95% of the holding pasture is open grassland habitat and the remaining 5% is PJ habitat.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

**Special Big Game License Tag Funds**

**New Horse Pasture Fence Construction**

Wooden stays, standouts, barbed wire and high tensile wire will be furnished by AGFD.

Cable, 7' T-posts and stay wire, as well as materials listed below, will be furnished by the Contractor.

Material

4	7' x 2 7/8" heavy-walled pipe @ \$25 ea	\$ 100
4	8' juniper posts @ \$25 ea	\$ 100
2	5' x 2 3/8" pipe @ \$15 ea	\$ 30
2	Rolls barbles wire @ \$60 ea	\$ 120
1	12' gate @ \$150 ea	\$ 150
	Misc. electric fence materials and gas	<u>\$ 500</u>
	Total Material cost	\$1,000
	Labor cost	\$3,870
	Tax (TPT)	<u>\$ 220</u>
	Total cost of new fence	\$5,090

Archeological Survey/Report- New AGFD archeologist \$8,000

**Grand Total \$13,090**

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

Arizona State Land Department has been consulted and is supportive. A portion of the old horse holding pasture crossed onto state land. We are relining the pasture to be fully on AGF commission land.

**WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?**

YES[X] NO[] N/A[]

In 2013 RWA was closed during the pronghorn and elk hunts because of past bison herd disturbance and problems that occurred during elk hunts on Raymond. Additionally, maintaining good relations with surrounding private cattle ranches is important to retain current public access for hunting opportunity on these ranches.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

No specific monitoring plan, but RWA fences are monitored weekly for damage. When damage is detected, repairs are made at that time.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

RWA Manager- Steve Hymer

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Carl Lutch

